

Influenza - A, B, and Novel Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Influenza-associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza-like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable immediately
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases of Novel Influenza A
Required Information:	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: Patient name written on requisition and patient name on specimen itself must match. Requisition form available at: http://mainegov-images.informe.org/dhhs/etl/micro/clinical_requisition.pdf
Specimen Requirements:	Preferred: 1) Nasopharyngeal swab, 2) Throat swab, 3) Nasal wash Other Acceptable specimens: 4) Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), 5) Nasal aspirate, 6) Sputum:
Collection Instructions:	Request Influenza Collection Kit from HETL Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media provided in the kit. Do not use wooden swabs or calcium alginate swabs. ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. For faster turn around time to obtain results, consider hand delivery to HETL. Use wet ice or cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery. Freezing specimens for direct detection (PCR) is not optimal. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B
Turn Around Time:	PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival. Viral culture results are generally available within 10 days from arrival
<i>MeCDC Epidemiologists only</i>	<i>Contact HETL for outbreak kits @ 287-1716</i>
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyze (less than 0.5ml), collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include:	Influenza A/H1, Influenza A/H3 or Influenza B detected/isolated No Influenza RNA found, No Virus Isolated
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	With prior authorization from Maine CDC epidemiologist, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient. PCR \$40.00 Culture - \$36.00
Applicable CPT Codes:	83891(nucleic acid extraction), 83898 (RT), 83902 (amplification)
Additional Information:	For Influenza specific questions contact Maine HETL - Virology at 207-287-1722